



**Social Studies  
Grade 9  
Scoring Guide for  
Released Item #47  
Michigan Timber  
Fall 2006**

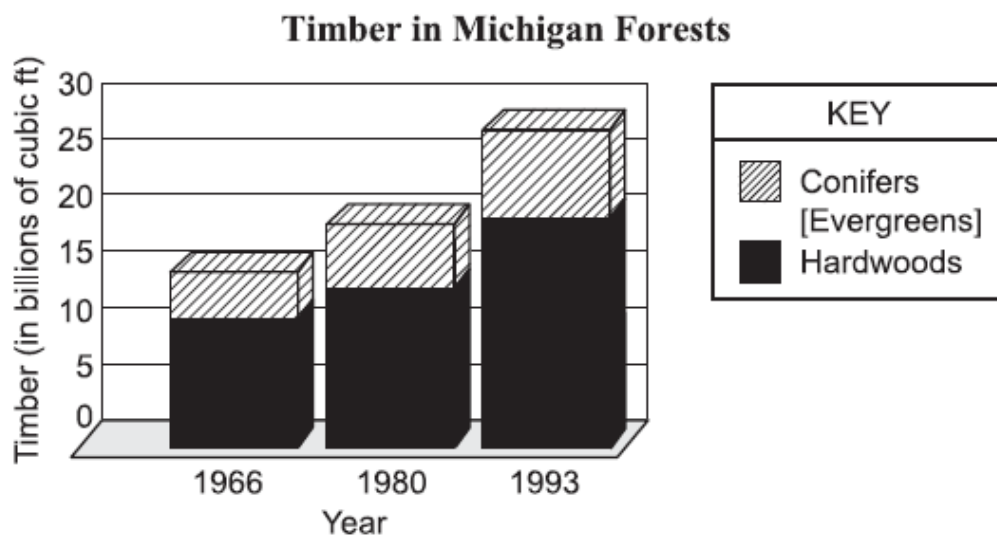


**INQUIRY AND DECISION MAKING**

**Directions:** Read the following information about a public policy issue. Use it with what you know to complete the tasks that follow. You should take about 20 minutes to complete both Task I and Task II.

**MICHIGAN TIMBER**

When European settlers first came to what is now Michigan, about 95% of the territory was forested. Now, about 53% of the state is forested. However, logging is still an important Michigan industry. Some people want to outlaw clearcut logging in the state. Clearcut logging is when all or almost all trees in an area are cut down at the same time. Other people think it is economically necessary to allow clearcut logging.

**DATA SECTION****Part A**

Source: Department of Agriculture, Forest Services.

**DATA SECTION (continued)****Part B**

Over 800 companies, large and small, participate in Michigan logging. They harvest trees in different ways, depending on the kind of tree they are harvesting.

	<b>Clearcut</b>	<b>Selective Cutting</b>
Definition	All or almost all trees are cut down.	Only some trees are cut.
Regrowth Potential	high	high
Cost of harvesting	lowest	highest
Animal habitat	good	poor to medium
Appearance of land after cutting	poor	good
Potential damage to soil	lowest	highest
Potential water runoff problems	highest	lowest

*Source: Michigan Forests Forever Teachers Guide, Michigan State University Extension, 2004.*

**Task II: Taking a Stand**

You will now take a stand on the following public policy issue.

**47 Should the State of Michigan put further restrictions on clearcut logging in the state?**

You may either support or oppose increasing restrictions on clearcut logging. Write a letter to your state legislator.

You will be graded on the following criteria. Your letter must include:

- a clear and supported statement of your position;
- supporting information using a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy;
- supporting knowledge (it is not enough to state your opinion) from history, geography, civics (other than the core democratic values), or economics; and
- supporting information from the Data Section.

**Remember:** • Write or print neatly on the lines provided in your **Answer Document**.

- No additional sheets may be used.
- Nothing written in this booklet will be scored.

**Some Core Democratic Values of American Constitutional Democracy****Fundamental Beliefs**

Life  
Liberty  
The Pursuit of Happiness  
Public or Common Good  
Justice  
Equality  
Diversity  
Truth  
Popular Sovereignty  
Patriotism

**Constitutional Principles**

The Rule of Law  
Separation of Powers  
Representative Government  
Checks and Balances  
Individual Rights  
Freedom of Religion  
Federalism  
Civilian Control of the Military

**Holistic Feature Scoring of Civic Writing: Grade 9**

<b>Points</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>4</b>	<p>In order to receive a 4-point score, the response must</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give a clearly stated position on the issue and support their position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Students should use words such as support/oppose, for/against, agree/disagree, or should/should not</li> <li>– Do not accept those who do not take a stand, who say someone else (parents, school, or government) should decide the issue</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Provide at least one supporting point that is based on the Core Democratic Values of American constitutional democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Provide at least one piece of accurate, important and relevant supporting social studies information that comes from the student's prior knowledge of civics, economics, geography, or history (information other than that supplied by the Data Section or a Core Democratic Value) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Do not accept feelings or opinions for this element.</li> <li>– Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Provide at least one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position</li> <li>– Data interpretations must be more right than wrong</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>3</b>	<p>In order to receive a 3-point score, the response must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue</li> <li>• contain at least 2 of the remaining 3 elements</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p>In order to receive a 2-point score, the response must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue</li> <li>• contain at least 1 of the remaining 3 elements</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<p>In order to receive a 1-point score, the response must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue</li> </ul>
<b>0</b>	<p>Response shows no evidence of a clear position or the position is not supported in any way.</p>

NOTE: The supporting points used by students must be explained in enough detail to show a clear connection to the position taken.

## Anchor Paper 1 - Score Point 4

59 Dear State Legislator,

I believe that the state of Michigan should further restrict the use of clearcutting in the timber industry. I think that the forests are the state's second greatest natural treasure and it is in the common good for the people that they remain healthy and natural while still providing economic benefits. Selective cutting and shelterwood cutting are better ways to manage the forest resource than wiping it all out.

In the long run, these (selective and shelterwood cutting) also provide greater economic benefits than clearcutting. Even though the immediate costs of clearcutting are low and payouts are high, the damage from water runoff, the loss of tourism, and the time it takes to regrow a whole forest outweigh the benefits. Therefore, I think that clearcutting should be restricted further for the good of the state and people.

## Anchor Paper 1

## Score Point 4

**Position:** "should further restrict" supported with other elements.

**Data:** "costs of clearcutting are low" or "damage from water runoff" linked to position by context of "outweigh the benefits".

**Core Democratic Value:** Common Good by sacrifice "costs of clearcutting are low" for benefit to all of minimizing "damage from water runoff" and "loss of tourism".

**Prior Knowledge:** "loss of tourism" within the weighing "economic benefits" argument. (Understanding of give and take.)

**Note:** acceptance of using same economic words for multiple elements.

## Anchor Paper 2 - Score Point 3

58 No, the state of Michigan should not put further restrictions on clearcut logging.

The LD V, Common Good' states that we should do something if it's for the good of everyone. With out clear cut logging our state would be unable to make many products, which we need to keep economy strong. Clear cut logging is for the common good of everyone.

Civics class has taught me that with out a strong economy you don't have a strong state. Economy means money making and clearcut logging is money making. Taxes may increase on products including timber.

According to data section B, regrowth potential is high, trees regrow. Also the cost of harvesting is low, unlike the other types of harvestings. In other words clear cut will cost less with our animal habitat at a good rate.

### Anchor Paper 2

#### Score Point 3

**Position:** "should not further restrict" supported with other elements.

**Data:** "regrowth potential is high", "cost of harvesting is low", "clearcut will cost less with our animal habitat".

**Core Democratic Value:** no 'sacrifice' given for Common Good (unexplained).

**Prior Knowledge:** Paragraph 3 economic process; allow interpretation "Taxes may increase" to mean revenue increases.

## Anchor Paper 3 - Score Point 3

59 I strongly disagree that the State of Michigan should put further restrictions on clearcut logging in the state. Tree growth is still progressing. No serious problems have occurred and the tree population is still in control.

According to the core democratic value of common good this is the right decision. Trees are cut down for the better of the public. Trees are used for paper, essential writing, pamphlets, houses, pencils, tables, instruments, and many, many, more. People communicate with notes and letters and use pencils. Shelter is made to protect people. For the common good of the people these trees harvested by clearcutting are needed.

Economically, logging is an important industry in Michigan. It is economically necessary to allow clearcut logging. I imagine the damage to the 800 companies. Workers jobs would be questioned. Clearcut logging is the cheapest way. Both Selective and shelterwood cutting are more expensive. To maintain the stability of Michigan's economy the restrictions must stay the same.

According to Data Section Part A the amount of timber as a whole has increased. This means clearcutting is not affecting the



growth of trees. In data section Part B regrowth potential is high. Potential damage to the soil is also the lowest. This means the soil can be healthy so new trees can grow back. Other strategies damage the soil.

In conclusion clearcutting is not effecting the trees enough to bring up an argument. Everything is being maintained and kept up. When serious problems come up like shortages then we have a problem. Until then, lets not damper the michigan economy, question the 800 companies, and ruin the soil with other ways of harvesting. So, I- strongly disagree that the state of michigan should put further restrictions on clearcut logging in the state.

### Anchor Paper 3

#### Score Point 3

**Position:** “disagree” with “further restrictions” supported with other elements.

**Data:** Paragraph 3—“800 companys” is w/in data box.; “selective and shelterwood cutting are more expensive”; “amount of timber...increased” solid w/in context; “regrowth potential is high”; “Potential damage to the soil...lowest”.

**Core Democratic Value:** no sacrifice for Common Good is given.

**Prior Knowledge:** “logging is an important industry in Michigan” and “Imagine the damage to the 800 companys”, argument strengthened by “workers jobs would be questioned” and comparison of clearcutting to other methods.

## Anchor Paper 4 - Score Point 3

88 I strongly believe that clearcut logging should be eliminated from the state of Michigan. A core democratic value that would relate would be common good because it's for the good of the people that we keep trees up for habitats for animals and oxygen. Many floods have been caused by no trees being able to keep soil down on the ground and everything comes up and floats away. The data section shows that the land would look bad, and there would be water runoff problems.

### Anchor Paper 4

#### Score Point 3

**Position:** “*should be eliminated*” (this “modified position” is accepted) supported by elements.

**Data:** “*Land would look bad*” reference to Part B “*appearance*”.

**Core Democratic Value:** with the Common Good, no sacrifice is mentioned.

**Prior Knowledge:** “*floods...caused by no trees;*” plus gives extra step of “*being able to keep soil down on the ground*”.

## Anchor Paper 5 - Score Point 2

I think the state of Michigan should put a restriction on clearcut logging in the state. The common good is a good core democratic value for this topic because if no restrictions are placed then people will just cut down as many trees as they want. If people just keep chopping down the trees then they will be destroying our forests and animals homes. It isn't right if they chop down the forest because they will be killing animals. From my knowledge I know the hunters will not like it if there are no restrictions because there will not be any more animals to hunt in the forests because they have been chopped down. The government should make it so there could only be shelterwood cutting because it has a high regrowth potential, there might not be damage to the soil, the land will still look good, and the animals habitats will be okay. This is why I think Michigan should put restrictions on clearcut logging in the state.

## Anchor Paper 5

## Score Point 2

**Position:** "should put a restriction on clearcut logging" is supported by other elements.

**Data:** "shelterwood...because...high regrowth potential ..."; the other data statements are not accepted, but they are "neutral," and therefore do not count against awarding the data point.

**Core Democratic Value:** insufficient explanation, plus it is an extreme example.

## Anchor Paper 6 - Score Point 2

Dear Public Official,

I think that the State of Michigan should put restrictions on clearcut logging. I think this because it destroys the homes of the wild life in the State. With that it doesn't look too attractive either. We as humans should show equality to the animals and plants we share this earth with. We should treat them how we would want to be treated. I think a better method instead of clearcut logging would be selective cutting. It not only looks better but it won't erode the soil. The Bar graph on page 30 of the booklet shows how much timber is being logged. It has increased a lot in the last 30 years. This is why I think Michigan should put restrictions on clearcut logging.

## Anchor Paper 6

## Score Point 2

**Position:** “should put restrictions” (accepted the “modified position” that there are no current restrictions), supported by other elements.

**Data:** Preponderance of appropriate use of data. “clearcut logging...doesn't look too attractive”, “Selective Cutting...looks better” (than clearcutting), and “timber is being logged...increased...last 30 years”

**Core Democratic Value:** is not awarded, as Equality only applies to people.

**Anchor Paper 7 - Score Point 1**

Dear State legislator,  
I think that the State of Michigan should put further restrictions on clearcut logging in the state. If the State of Michigan were to continue cutting trees down eventually we would lose all of our forests. I think that they should dedicate a certain part of land to growing trees for logs. The core democratic value I am relating this issue to is life is because without trees we would have no animal life. This is why I think the state of Michigan should put further restrictions on clearcut logging in the state.  
Sincerely,

**Anchor Paper 7****Score Point 1**

**Position:** "I think the State of Michigan....," supported with other elements.

**Core Democratic Value:** point is not awarded as the Core Democratic Value of Life applies to people only.

**Anchor Paper 8 - Score Point 1**

59 To whom it may concern,  
I believe that the State of Michigan  
should put further restrictions on clearcut  
logging. Because it takes a tree 20 years to  
grow so that we are able to cut it down  
and we plant a tree every time we cut  
one down. But we are cutting trees down  
faster than they are growing. The core  
democratic value of Pursuit of Happiness  
demonstrates this because people need trees to  
breathe and when they breathe they can be  
happy and also the trees provide beauty and  
people can be happy when there is beauty  
around.

Sincerely,

**Anchor Paper 8  
Score Point 1**

**Position:** "I believe that the State of Michigan..." is supported by other elements.

**Core Democratic Value:** is not awarded because there is no mention that the Pursuit of Happiness cannot infringe on the rights of others.

## Anchor Paper 9 - Score Point 0

Dear State of Michigan,

I think that you should do what ever would keep this country in good shape. If cutting down tree will make this country better and our citizen happy then you should do it, but if it doesn't then don't do it. That's what I think you should do.

Sincerely,  
A citizen

### Anchor Paper 9

#### Score Point 0

**Position:** The paper does not take a position for or against the issue.

## Anchor Paper 10 - Score Point 0

50 NO! I don't think that Michagan should  
put further restrictions on clearcut logging in the state.

### Anchor Paper 10

#### Score Point 0

This paper takes a clear position, but does not support the position.